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NEWS AND NOTES

THE MAY MEETING OF THE ENGLISH SECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY

The spring meeting of the English Section of the Association of Secondary Schools of the Upper Ohio Valley, which was held at the Fort Pitt Hotel, Pittsburgh, on May 18, was largely attended and brought forth some valuable papers. Professor George H. Putnam of the Pennsylvania College for Women, who spoke upon the topic "Highways and Byways," developed the thought that the overworked English teacher, though often unable to find time for the alluring bypaths of reading, can still gain the greatest inspiration from the books that he is interpreting to his classes, the broad highways of literature. After Professor Putnam's inspiring talk, the general subject, "How I Teach English Classics," was treated in five short papers, each dealing with a single classic. Miss Ada Palm of Peabody High School, Pittsburgh, in explaining her original methods of presenting Irving's *Sketch Book* to first-year classes, stressed oral reading by the pupils in the preparation of their lessons. "If they can't find any other listener on whom to inflict themselves," she said, "I tell them to read to the ever-patient and long-suffering bedpost." *Silas Marner* was discussed by Mr. L. B. Brink of the McKeesport High School, and *The Sir Roger de Coverley Papers* by Miss Gertrude Wray of the Johnstown High School. To many of those present Miss Wray's device, of asking pupils to write original papers describing Sir Roger's experiences at a moving-picture show and other twentieth-century resorts, came as a novel suggestion. Mr. F. L. Homer of the Central High School, Pittsburgh, who treated *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, emphasized the use of outlines in the study of these poems, and illustrated his paper by reading outlines used in his classes. One of the unique schemes mentioned by Mr. C. B. Story of the Wilkinsburgh High School as successful in arousing interest in *Macbeth* was the assignment of certain pupils as reporters on the *Scotland Daily Gazette* to the task of reporting each day the events connected with the murder of Duncan as they appeared in the lesson for that day.

At the business meeting a committee was appointed to investigate and report upon the errors in English most prevalent in the territory

of the association. After the meeting most of those present took lunch together and enjoyed the opportunity for informal discussion. Later in the afternoon many of the members of the section availed themselves of the kind invitation of Professor Putnam to attend the May Day Fête of the Pennsylvania College for Women, a delightful open-air festival.

ERNEST C. NOYES

PITTSBURGH, PA.

ON TO CHICAGO

November 28 to 30 has been set as the time for the second annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English. The place is Chicago. Both time and place are the same as last year.

Meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee will be held on November 28, the former in the evening, the latter at three in the afternoon. The general sessions will open Friday morning and continue until Saturday noon. Friday afternoon will be given up mainly to section meetings, which will be held from two to four. On Friday evening the members will sit down to the annual dinner. The business meeting for the election of directors is set for Friday afternoon at 4:15.

The meeting of the Council will this year be devoted chiefly to the consideration of the reports of special committees, of which there are at present eight. The topics upon which they are working are as follows: Grammatical Terminology, Home Reading of High-School Pupils, Types of Organization of High-School English Courses, Testimony of High-School Graduates as to the Efficiency of Their English Instruction, Articulation of the English Work of the Elementary Schools with That of the High Schools, Material Equipment for School and College English, Possibility of Scientific Investigation of Problems of English Teaching, Labor and Cost of Composition Teaching in School and College.

The section meetings, so far as they are provided for at this writing, will have programs as follows: The Elementary Section, under the chairmanship of Franklin T. Baker of Teachers College, Columbia University, will consider grammar and composition, particularly the relation between them. The Secondary Section, under the chairmanship of Louise B. Stickney of the Yeatman High School, St. Louis, will discuss home reading, the use of modern books and magazines, and the possibility of dramatic representation and dramatic production.

The Public Speaking Section, under the chairmanship of Elmer W. Smith of Colgate University, will listen to suggestions as to the place of public speaking in school and college, its relation to other English subjects and exercises, and how to articulate the college courses with those given in high schools.

The College Section, chairman uncertain, will probably give attention principally to oral composition and the preparation of college instructors. The Normal School Section, chairman also uncertain, will undertake to decide what required courses in English are essential and most valuable for graduates of high schools who are preparing to teach in the elementary schools.

All who attended the meeting last year testify to the remarkably stimulating and illuminating influence which it exerted. Never before have English teachers of all schools from various sections come to close quarters in discussion and into warm fellowship as co-workers. The organization, by its very nature, provides a unique and invaluable educational clearing-house. Its possibilities as a shaping force in the field of English are almost unlimited. It is confidently believed, therefore, that there will be a very large attendance of present and prospective members. All who are interested can give valuable assistance by extending notice of the meeting, particularly by securing suitable mention of it in the educational gatherings of the various states.

THE NATIONAL SYLLABUS

As announced in the September *Journal*, the National Education Association committee on the High-School Course has been directed to prepare a syllabus, to be published with syllabi of the other subjects by the National Commissioner of Education. The first step toward such a syllabus was taken by the National Council some time ago in the appointment of its Committee on Types of Organization of the High-School Course. This latter committee is at work collecting material, and will have the aid of the National Education Association committee in its task.

What is wanted particularly is very full information as to distinctive courses in English and the school and home conditions which each is intended to fit. Doubtless many commercial and technical schools have developed plans of English study different in many respects from the older academic courses. Moreover, an academic school in an industrial district might reasonably be supposed to have problems

somewhat different from those of schools serving a more favored class. In all schools, such problems as the relation of grammar and composition, of literature and composition, of oral and written work, of choice of classics to literary history, and of English to other subjects, are important and often unsolved or only partly solved. The committee earnestly solicits complete and exact information as to the handling of these matters in the various schools, both public and private.

To facilitate correspondence, the names and addresses of the Council committee are here given. They are as follows: Edwin T. Reed, Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore.; C. C. Certain, Central High School, Birmingham, Ala.; Franklin T. Baker, Teachers College, New York; Elizabeth M. Richardson, Girls' High School, Boston, Mass.; W. D. Lewis, Penn High School, Philadelphia, Pa.; Allison Gow, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Cal.; Elizabeth G. Barbour, Girls' High School, Louisville, Ky.; E. H. Kemper McComb, Manual Training High School, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Henry Hulst, Central High School, Grand Rapids, Mich.; James F. Hosic, Chicago Teachers College, chairman. Address the member nearest you.

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED DECEMBER 1, 1911, BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH, AND ON DECEMBER 29, 1911, BY THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

I

We indorse the work of the Committee on English Composition Teaching of the English Section of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association. We commend the report of that committee to the attention of every English teacher and of every school officer; and request the co-operation of educational organizations, institutions, state officers, and the press, in securing for it the utmost publicity.

II

We authorize the Committee on English Composition Teaching, acting with Professor V. C. Coulter, to request state officers and high-school inspectors to furnish data with reference to the comparative cost of equipment and of instruction for the various departments in the high schools.

III

We request the attention of the United States Department of Education and of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

to the report of the Committee on English Composition Teaching, with reference to possible publication and general distribution.

The third resolution preceding relates especially to the final report of the committee, which is now in preparation. The preliminary report of the committee, first published in April of 1911, is now in its ninth edition, and has reached a total of 15,000 copies. Orders may be addressed to the chairman, Lawrence, Kan.; rate, ten dollars a thousand with any desired modification of title-page; single copies five cents, postpaid.

The present membership of the committee, now a joint body representing two national organizations, is as follows:

- F. G. HUBBARD, *University of Wisconsin*
- A. B. NOBLE, *Iowa State College*
- V. C. COULTER, *Warrensburg Normal School, Mo.*
- J. M. THOMAS, *University of Minnesota*
- H. G. PAUL, *University of Illinois*
- E. M. HOPKINS, Chairman, *University of Kansas*

THE STUDY OF ENGLISH

It is a lamentable fact that ability to use the English language correctly, idiomatically, and gracefully is seldom found among young people who have passed through the high schools. The formation of the National Council of Teachers of English is an attempt to remedy this deficiency, and every man or woman whose ear has been offended by the barbarisms of common speech will hope it may lead to better methods of teaching. Yet the fact remains that young and old are more influenced by the language used in daily life and in printed matter not of the textbook sort than by rules and examples, however carefully studied.

The general use of good English by adults would make it vastly easier for the young to learn to speak and write well. Responsibility for existing conditions cannot be placed wholly on the teachers, though modern education is undoubtedly diffuse and concentration is needed. Americans of foreign birth who learn English from books and contact with cultivated persons usually speak more correctly than the native-born college graduate. This is partly because they are more ambitious for excellence in the language. Their children, however, may easily fall into our slipshod use of English. Why not cultivate the intelligent foreigner's attitude toward English?—*Chicago Record-Herald*, December 4, 1911.

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF
ENGLISH AND OF ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED
WITH THE COUNCIL

NATIONAL COUNCIL

President, Fred N. Scott, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Secretary, James F. Hosic, Chicago Teachers College, Chicago.

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, W. W. Livengood, Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, Ind.

Secretary-Treasurer, Odessa Zeis, High School, Wabash, Ind.

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, James F. Hosic, Chicago Teachers College, Chicago.

Secretary, Edward C. Baldwin, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, Charles E. Rhodes, 507 Potomac Ave., Buffalo, N.Y.

Secretary, Edwin Fairley, 282 Quincy St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

ENGLISH SECTION OF THE MICHIGAN SCHOOLMASTERS' CLUB

President, Edwin L. Miller, Central High School, Detroit, Mich.

Secretary, Miss Caroline E. Britten, 123 Second St., Jackson, Mich.

NEW YORK CITY ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, Edwin Fairley, 282 Quincy St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Secretary, Charles A. Gaston, Richmond Hill H. S., New York.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, J. Milnor Dorey, 66 Prospect St., Trenton, N.J.

Secretary, Junius W. Stevens, Barrington H. S., Newark, N.J.

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, William A. Neilson, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Secretary, F. W. C. Hersey, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

MEMPHIS (TENN.) ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, Helen Thorburn, High School, Memphis, Tenn.

Secretary, Mary V. Little, 576 Linden Ave., Memphis, Tenn.

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, C. B. Goddard, Yeatman High School, St. Louis, Mo.

Secretary-Treasurer, V. C. Coulter, Normal School, Warrensburg, Mo.

UPPER OHIO VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, Ernest C. Noyes, Fifth Ave. High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Secretary-Treasurer, Orton Lowe, 1213 Mill St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, Edwin M. Hopkins, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.

Secretary, Charlotte M. Leavitt, Washburn College, Topeka, Kan.

LOUISVILLE (KY.) ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

President, Elizabeth G. Barbour, Girls' High School, Louisville, Ky.

Secretary, H. B. Moore, 1410 Amber St., Louisville, Ky.

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION, MICHIGAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

President, J. Remsen Bishop, Eastern High School, Detroit, Mich.

Secretary, Edwin L. Miller, Central High School, Detroit, Mich.

The Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America will meet in Indianapolis, December 26, 27, and 28. The Eastern Division will meet at Philadelphia on the same days. The English section at Indianapolis will receive the final report of the Committee on Composition, of which Edwin M. Hopkins of Kansas University is chairman, and it will discuss the question, "What is the best preparation for a teacher of college English?"

The claims of the National Council and the *English Journal* were presented to several of the large summer schools in the South by Professor Maurice G. Fulton of Davidson College. He reports a lively interest in the new movement. Several associations of English teachers will probably result from his visits.

BOOK NOTICES

[Mention under this head does not preclude review elsewhere.]

The American Secondary School and Some of Its Problems. By JULIUS SACHS. New York: Macmillan, 1912. Pp. 295. \$1.10 net.

A new volume in the Teachers' Professional Library by the professor of secondary education in Teachers College, Columbia University. The author centers his attention upon the preparation of the teacher and the present status and policy of the public and private secondary school.